



GRAND GUIGNOL 6

STAR MAN

NO. 67
JUL '00



ROBINSON
1999

ROBINSON
SNEJBJERG

dccomics.com

THE CROWD...

...THE CROWD (WHAT THERE ARE, MAINLY CRIMINALS) ROARS. COULD IT BE THIS EASY? STARMAN... JACK KNIGHT... IS THEIRS.

JACK THINKS OF SADIE...

...TRIES TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF HER.

BUT LIKE A BALL TOO FAR IN THE OUTFIELD THIS PROVES IMPOSSIBLE.

"IS THIS IT?" HE THINKS...

...NOTICING THE CAMERAS STILL FILMING EVENTS SO OPAL CITY MAY BEAR WITNESS. "A PUBLIC EXECUTION?"

THEN JACK NOTES ONE OF THE HORDE CATCHING HIS OWN REFLECTION IN THE GLASS OF A NEARBY WINDOW, AND TAKING A MOMENT TO SMOOTH HIS HAIR.

JACK SMILES THEN, AMUSED BY THE ABSURDITY OF LIFE AND THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE RIVER FLOWS WHERE IT FLOWS.

HE CLINGS TO DRIFTWOOD AND HOPES.

**Grand Guignol
Sixieme Partie**

Rules of Engagement

ROBINSON - writer
SNEJBERG - artist
OAKLEY - letterer
WRIGHT - colorist
JAMISON - seps
WILLIAMS - assistant ed.
TOMASI - editor
GOODWIN - guiding light

Jack Knight created
by Robinson & Harris

WHILE AMONG
CULP'S AIDES,
THOUGHTS ARE
MIXED.

SOLOMON GRUNDY
ENJOYS THE TASTE
OF EVIL, SWEET
UPON HIS LIPS LIKE
MORNING JAM.



THIS, AFTER ALL... OPAL...
WAS THE PLACE OF HIS
WEAKNESS... HIS MOST
DESPICABLE OF
INCARNATIONS.

THE GRUNDY WHO BEFRIENDED
WITH "BLUEMAN MICHAEL"
AND "JACK STAR."

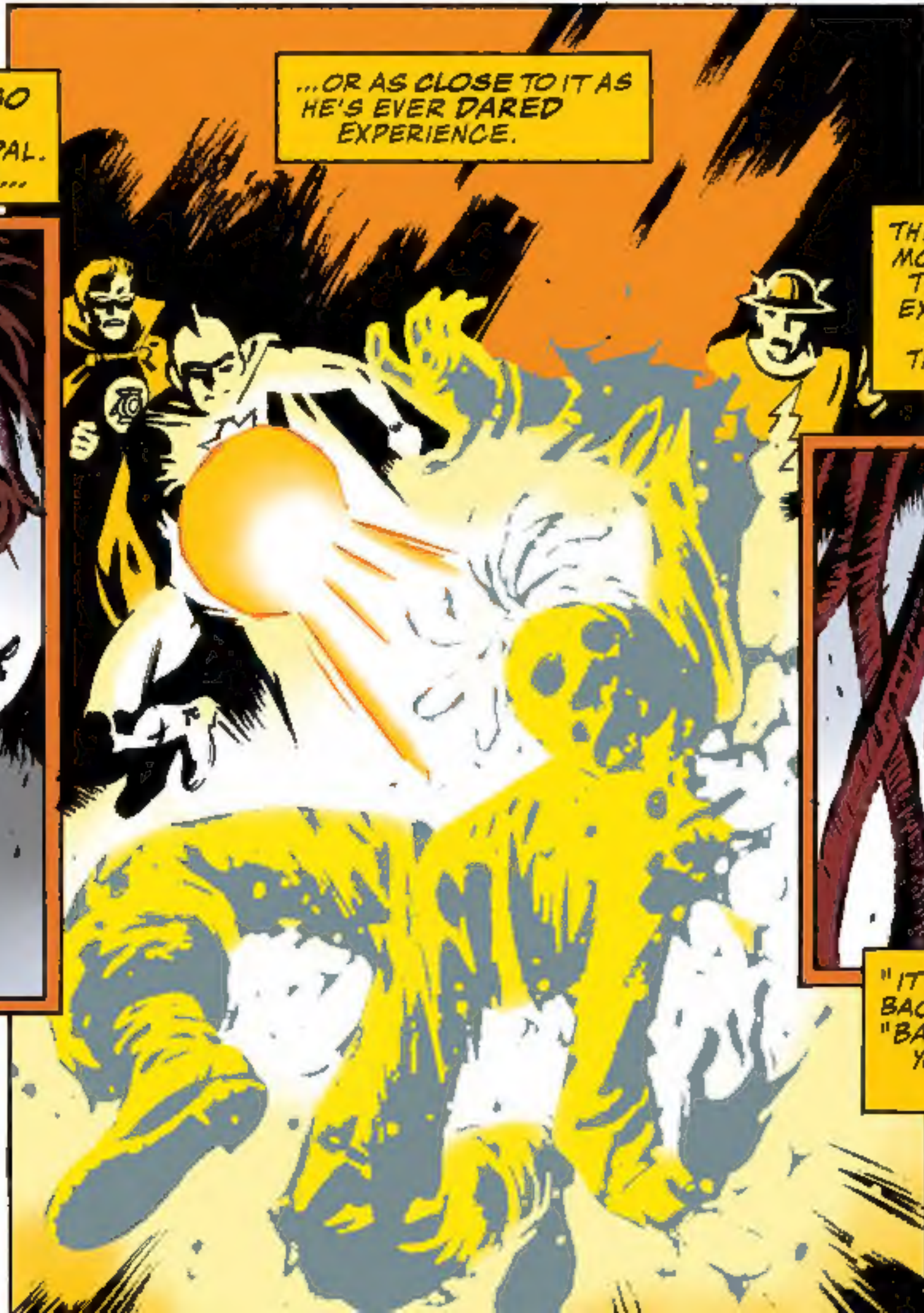
THE SWEETNESS ON GRUNDY'S
LIPS GOES BILE--BITTER AT
THE MEMORY.



THE RAG DOLL ALSO
REMEMBERS HIS
LIFE BEFORE IN OPAL.
AND HIS DEATH...

...OR AS CLOSE TO IT AS
HE'S EVER DARED
EXPERIENCE.

THEN A TIME OF GRAY.
MORE DEAD THAN ALIVE.
TENDED TO... HIS
EXISTENCE KNOWN TO
ONLY HIS MOST
TRUSTED ACOLYTES.



"IT'S GOOD TO BE
BACK," HE THINKS.
"BACK AND BETTER...
YOUNGER AND
BETTER."



THE MIST RECALLS
A NIGHT...

...A NIGHT THAT
JACK KNIGHT HIM-
SELF DOES NOT...

ALTHOUGH THEY WERE
BOTH VERY MUCH A
PART OF IT.

THE NIGHT THEIR
SON WAS CONCEIVED.
THE NASH OF THEN
HER MOST PASSIONATE
... INSPIRED SO BY
JACK THE PUPPET TOY
OBEYING THE WHIMS
OF HER BODY.

IT'S STRANGE THAT JACK SHOULD
DIE SO. SHE'D IMAGINED IT
DIFFERENTLY-- AN EPIC BATTLE
BETWEEN THEM. SHE, THE VICTOR
AND JACK HER PUPPET TOY AGAIN,
DYING, HIS STRINGS CUT.

WITH THIS... CULP'S PLAN...
SHE'S LITTLE MORE THAN
HIRED HELP.

STRANGE.

AARON AND LUPE BODINE
SMILE. HIM WITH THAT OL'
BURT LANCASTER SMILE
OF HIS, AND HER, A BIT
MORE DEMURE SURELY,
BUT PEARLIES SHINING
BRIGHTLY, NONETHELESS.

THEIR LAST TIME
WITH STARMAN...
A STARMAN, NOT
THIS ONE, WAS A
MITE SPURS TO THE
FILLY... TO USE THE
PARLANCE OF OLD.

THIS TIME, THINGS WAS A MITE
MORE PREORDAINED. "RIGHT,
NEAT AND NICE," IF YOU'D ASKED
AARON'S OPINION ON THE MATTER,
ALTHOUGH HONESTLY, NONE
THERE CARED TO.



CRUSHER LEFT THE
THINKING TO BLISS,
HIS LORD AND MASTER.

A TIME OF EASY
PLEASURE AT THE
PAIN OF OTHERS.



NOW... WITH A NEW
MASTER... THAT
EASY PLEASURE
BEGAN AGAIN.



BARRY O'DARE LOOKS
ON IN TRIUMPH.

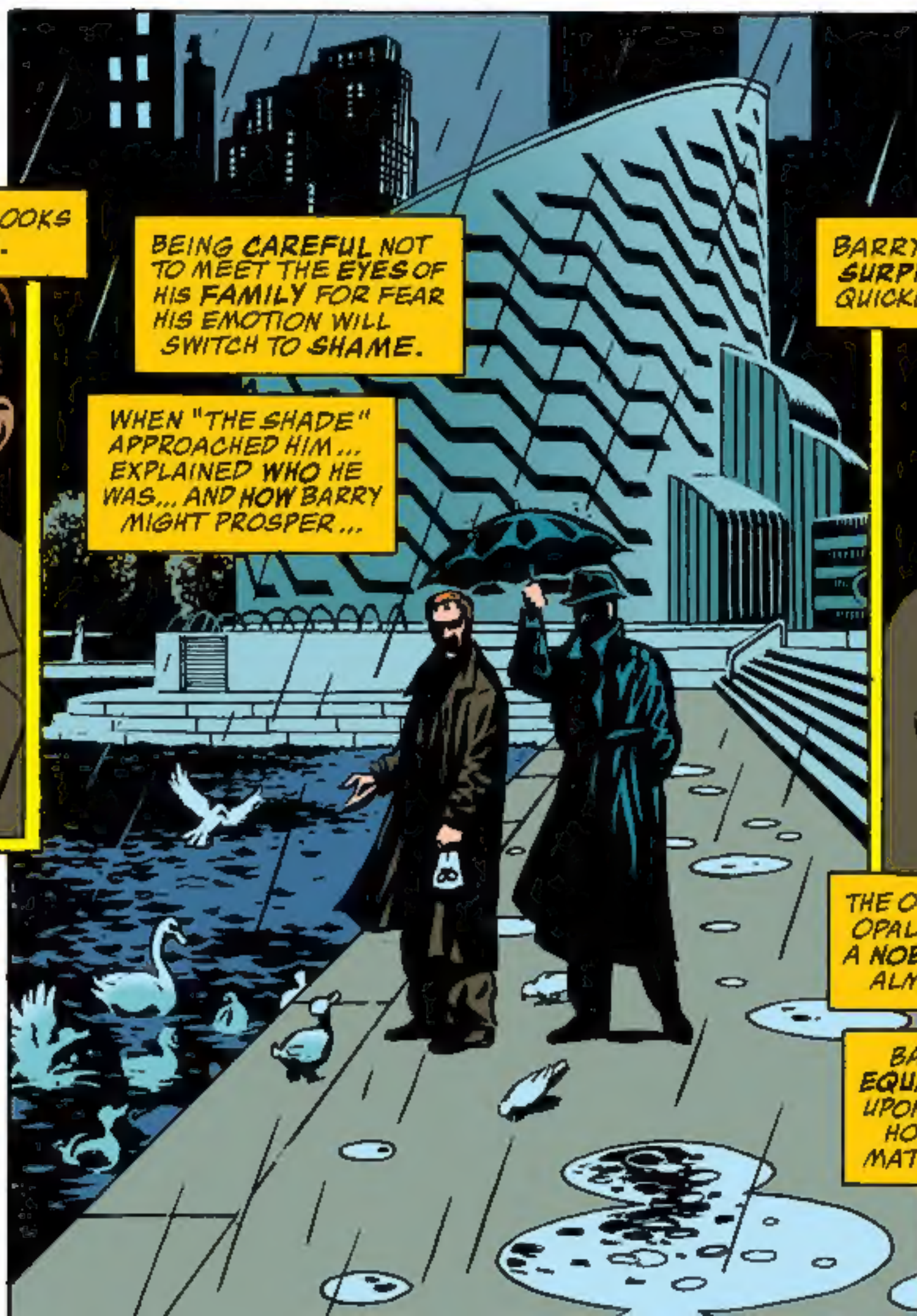
BEING CAREFUL NOT
TO MEET THE EYES OF
HIS FAMILY FOR FEAR
HIS EMOTION WILL
SWITCH TO SHAME.

WHEN "THE SHADE"
APPROACHED HIM...
EXPLAINED WHO HE
WAS... AND HOW BARRY
MIGHT PROSPER...

BARRY HIMSELF WAS
SURPRISED BY HOW
QUICKLY HE'D AGREED.

THE O'DARE LINEAGE OF
OPAL LAW OFFICERS IS
A NOBLE LEGACY... INDEED,
ALMOST A LEGEND.

BARRY HAD BEEN
EQUALLY SURPRISED...
UPON REFLECTION...
HOW LITTLE THAT
MATTERED TO HIM.



LUCAS (LUKE) LUDLOW-DALT, ALIAS (THIS GENERATION'S) SPIDER FEELS SURE AND UNSURE.

WHEN HE WAS APPROACHED BY CULP, THE DWARF WALKED THE LAND IN THE SHADE'S BODY...

...THE AMUSING ENIGMA OF "THE SHADE" COMING TO HIM FOR HELP DEFEATING THE SHADE.

LONG HAD HE WAITED... TRAINED AND WAITED TO AVENGE HIS FATHER ... AND THE NAME OF HIS FAMILY.

HE FEELS SURE... OF HIS GOALS AND HIS HATE. BUT OF CULP'S GOALS, HE FEELS LESS THAN CERTAIN...

IN THIS MOMENT, REALIZING ALL VILLAINS WITH ANY KIND OF FUTURE IN VILLAINY HAVE A MEANS OF ESCAPE IF AN ILL WIND TURNS THE TIDE.

AND OFF TO THE SIDELINES...

... AWAY...

... FRANKIE SOUL STANDS. FRANKIE WHOSE FATHER, LOUIE SOUL, THE SUPER-VILLAIN NO MERCY, DIED BY MIKAAL TOMAS' HAND.

CALLED BACK TO OPAL CITY BY THE MIST, AS HER LACKEY, ALTHOUGH SHE NOW SEEMS NO MORE THAN A LACKEY HERSELF.

HE FEELS HE SHOULD BE MORE INVOLVED... IN THE MIST. A PLAYER IN THIS DRAMA. NOT "FIFTH-BUSINESS" LOOKING ON.

WHY HADN'T IT BEEN HE WHO HAD HURT TOMAS... ALMOST KILLED HIM?

FRANKIE SEES THE BLUE-SKIN STANDING THERE. DIFFERENT. STRONGER. MORE LIKE HE WAS WHEN HIS FATHER FOUGHT HIM, MAYBE. AND FRANKIE RESOLVES THAT HE AND THE ALIEN SHALL HAVE THEIR DAY.

ONE OTHER
WATCHES...

... HE SITS AT THE HOME OF TED
KNIGHT LIKE A HOUSEGUEST...

... WHERE SO RECENTLY
HE AND THE OLD MAN
HAD FOUGHT LIKE
SPARTANS (THE SECOND
SUCH BATTLE).

TELEVISION SHOWS THE
GOOD DOCTOR THE NIGHT'S
EVENTS... HIS COLLEAGUES'
SUCCESS... KNIGHT THE
YOUNGER'S FAILURE.

BUT HE WONDERS... WORDS
FROM THESE THOUGHTS
FORMING ON HIS LIPS AS
HALF-SPOKEN WHISPERS.

HE WONDERS WHY WHEN HE MADE HIS
BARGAIN WITH NERON... THE BETTER-
MENT OF HIS POWERS... THE END
RESULT SEEMS...

... A DEADENING
OF THEM.

THERE WAS A TIME HE
COULD HAVE SAUTÉED
OLD MAN KNIGHT WITH
BARELY THE COCK OF
AN EYEBROW.

NOW--

AHH, BUT THE JOY
OF A CIGARETTE...
THAT HE CAN HOLD
ONE AGAIN.

"I WONDER WHEN
I'LL MEET TED
KNIGHT NEXT," HE
THINKS SMILING,
ALREADY IMAGINING
ROUND THREE.

CULP STANDS REVEALED NOW. FOR ALL IT'S THE FIRST TRUE APPEARANCE.

CULP HAD WALKED AND TALKED AMONG THEM AS THE SHADE. WEARING HIS FACE AND FORM AS HE SOWED THE SEEDS OF THE SHADE'S UNDOING AND OPAL CITY'S DESTRUCTION.

SMALL. A DWARF, AFTER ALL. AND YET CULP RADIATES LARGENESS.

ALL ARE AFFECTED BY HIS PRESENCE.

EVEN GRUNDY.

EVEN CRUSHER.

THE MIST LOOKS UPON HIM AND IS ABOUT TO WHISPER THE WORDS "MY GOD."

BUT THE "MY" BECOMES "M...M...M..."

AND SHE STIFLES IT BEFORE ANY HEAR HER.

I STAND 'ERE NOW, 'CAUSE UVVA COCKTAIL... O' DRUGS N'DRINK N'THE ODD SPELL OR TWO I CAST AT THE SHADE'S BODY WHILE I WAS IN IT.

ALL IN THE 'OPE IT'D WEAR DOWN WHATEVER WAS KEEPIN' ME TRAPPED WITHIN 'IM.

TOOK TIME, NO LYIN'.

BUT YOU CAN'T FAULT THE TIMIN', SMOOTHER 'N A SILK PURSE'S LININ' WAS THE TIMIN' OF IT.

CAMERA'S STILL ROLLIN'?

YES, SIR!

OPAL... MOST O' WHAT I TOLD YOU WAS TRUE... THE BAD PART... THE LOOTIN'... THE ABYSS O' DAMNATION THIS CITY WILL BE DRAGGED TO WHEN I'M DONE WIV IT.

APART FROM THAT... WELL... AT THE MOMENT THERE AIN'T MUCH MORE TO SAY.



DO... ON THE
OTHER 'AND...
PLENTY T' DO.

PUBLIC EXECUTIONS.
BELIEVE ME... YOU MIGHT BE
DREADIN' WHAT YOU'RE ABOUT
T'SEE, BUT ONCE WE'VE STARTED
YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE T'TAKE
YOUR EYES OFF THE TELE-
VISION.



FIRST UP,
STARMAN. JACK
KNIGHT.



THERE ARE AMONG THE CROWD
THOSE WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT
THE HONOR OF JACK'S DEATH
THEIRS BY RIGHT.



TO HAVE HIS BLOOD
UPON THEIR HANDS...
DROPLETS TWINKLING
IN THE DARKNESS
LIKE STARS.

ANY LAST
WORDS?

I... I
LOVE YOU,
SADIE.



BUT THE DARKNESS
ABOUT THEM HAD NO
STARS. AND IT IS
CULP'S. AND SO TOO
JACK'S BLOOD.

JACK!!



SHH... SHH,
SWEETIE. YOU'LL
BE HAVIN' A NATTER
WITH 'IM SOON
AS NOT.



BIG
WORDS FOR
A LITTLE
MAN.



WHO IS THAT?

NO IDEA.

CAPTAIN COMET?

WHAT IN THE HELL IS HE DOING HERE?

ADAM STRANGE IS A MAN OF TWO WORLDS, BUT IS KNOWN ONLY TO ONE.

AND NOT EARTH.

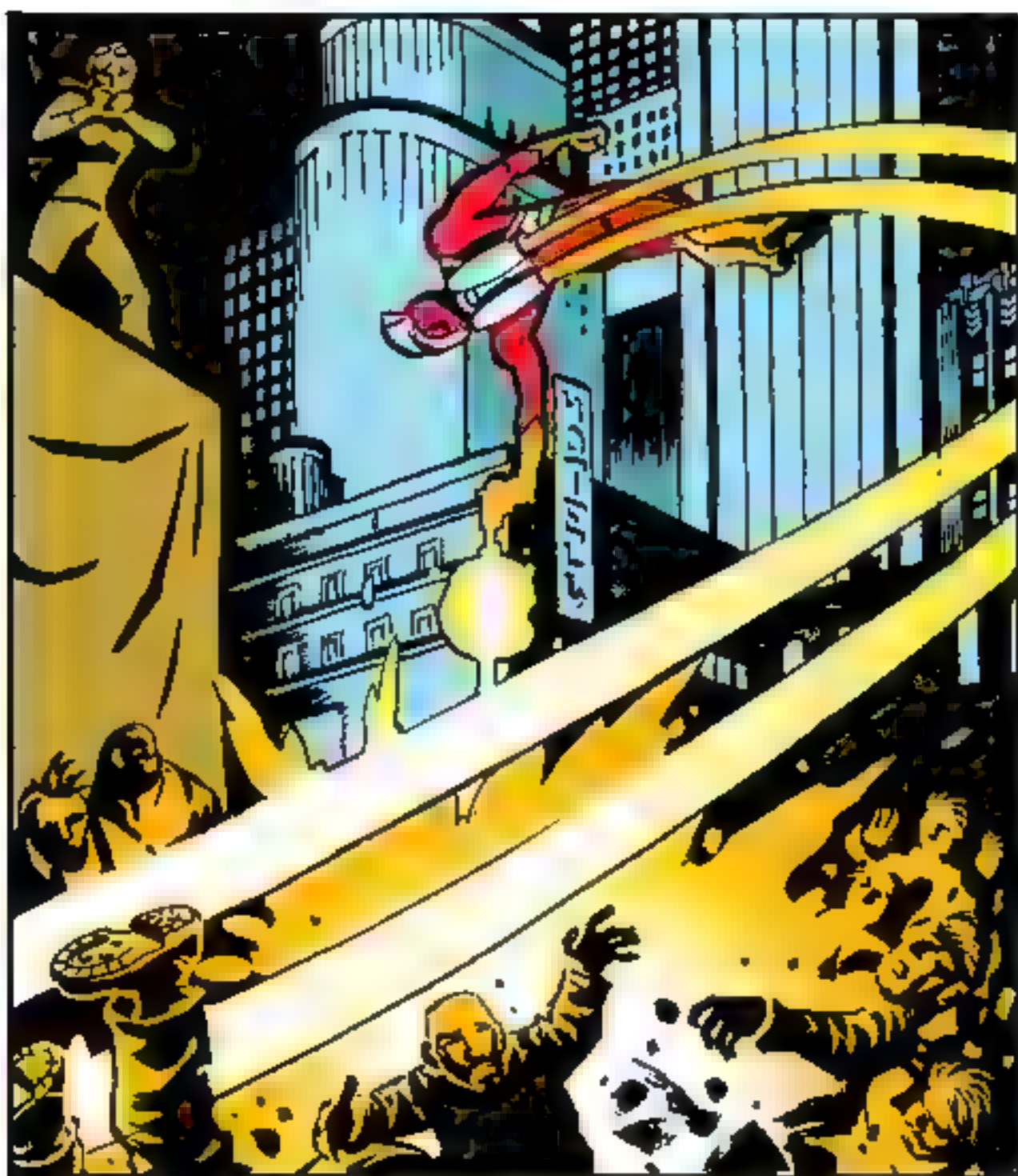
HERE HE IS A STRANGER.

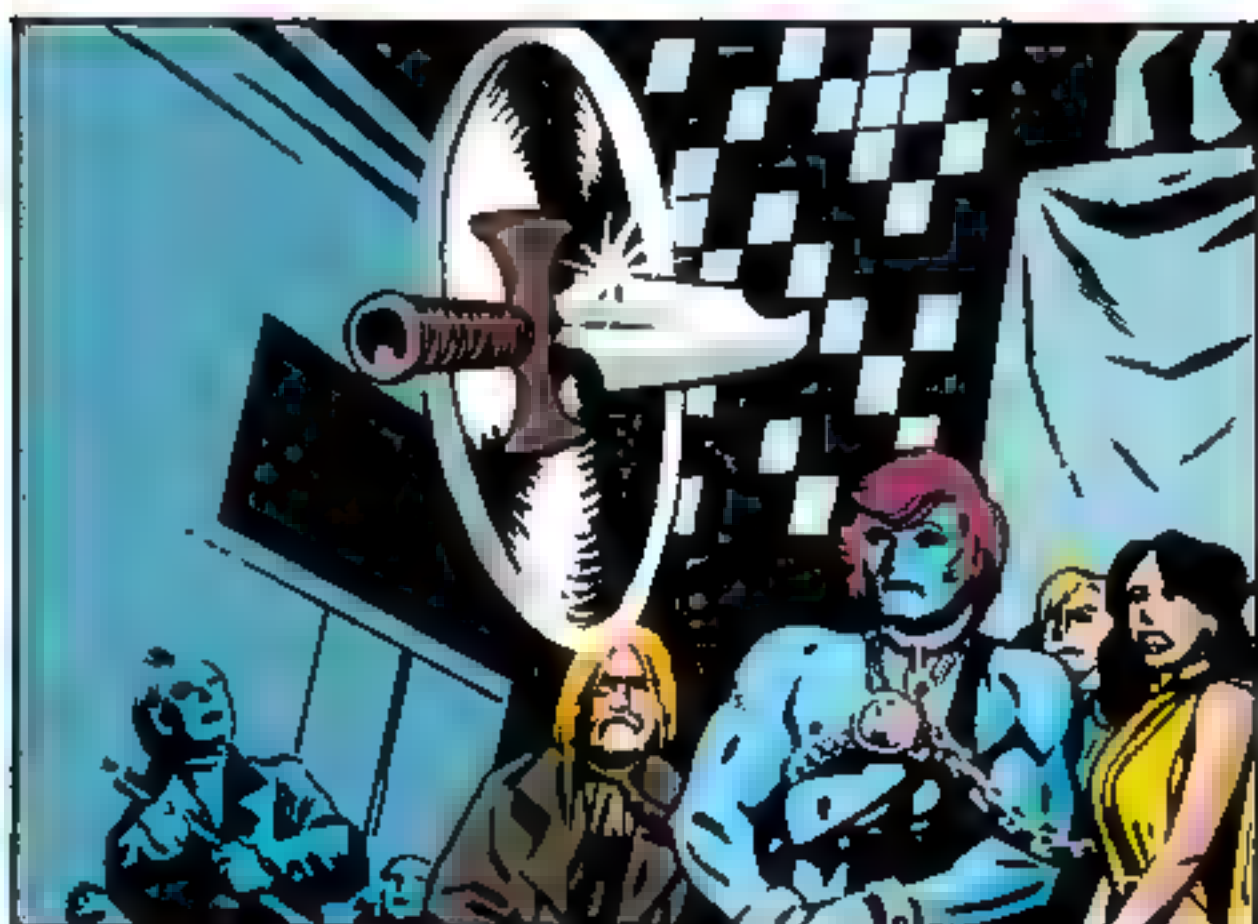
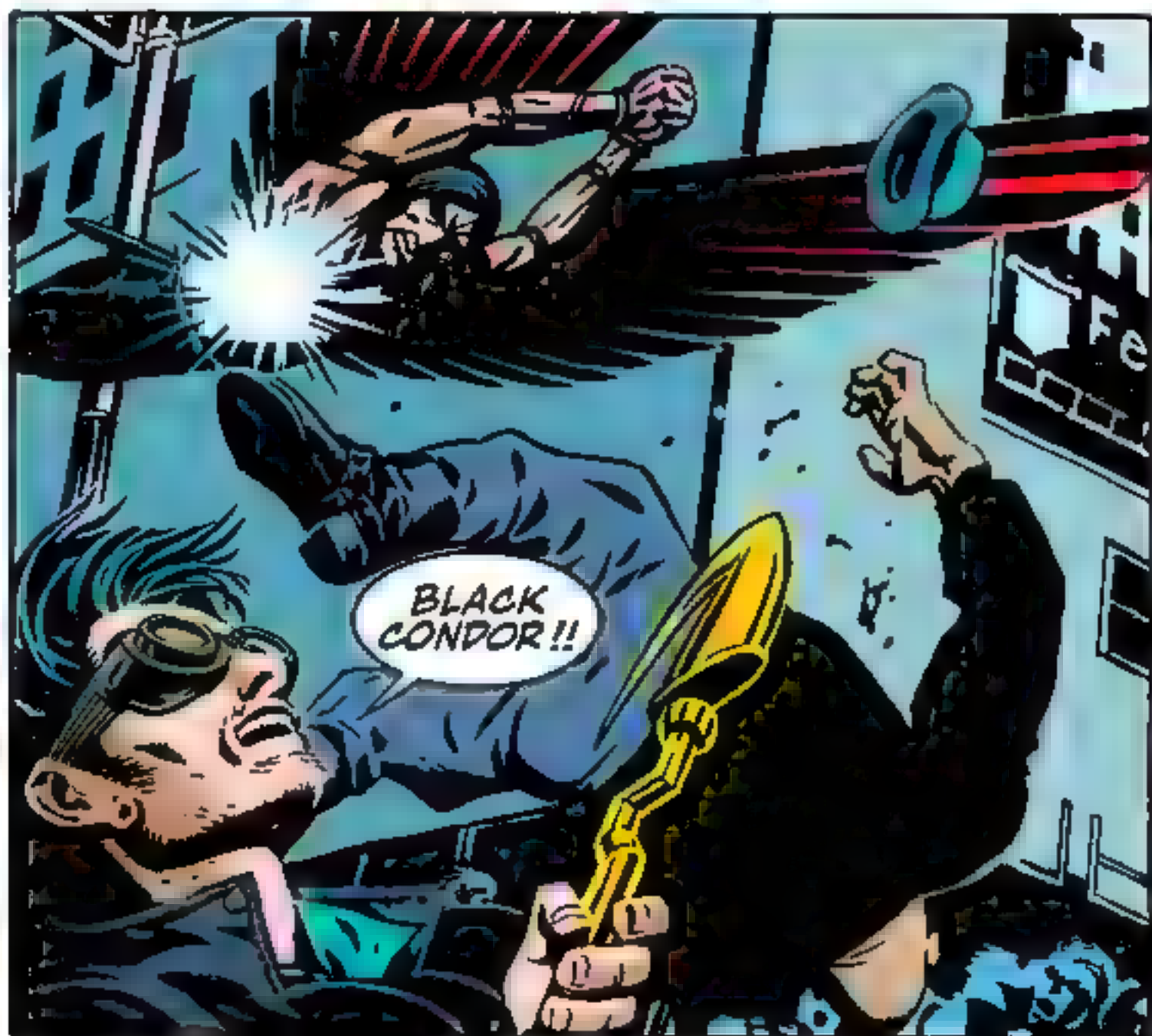


BUT NO LESS THE HERO WHEN THERE'S NEED.

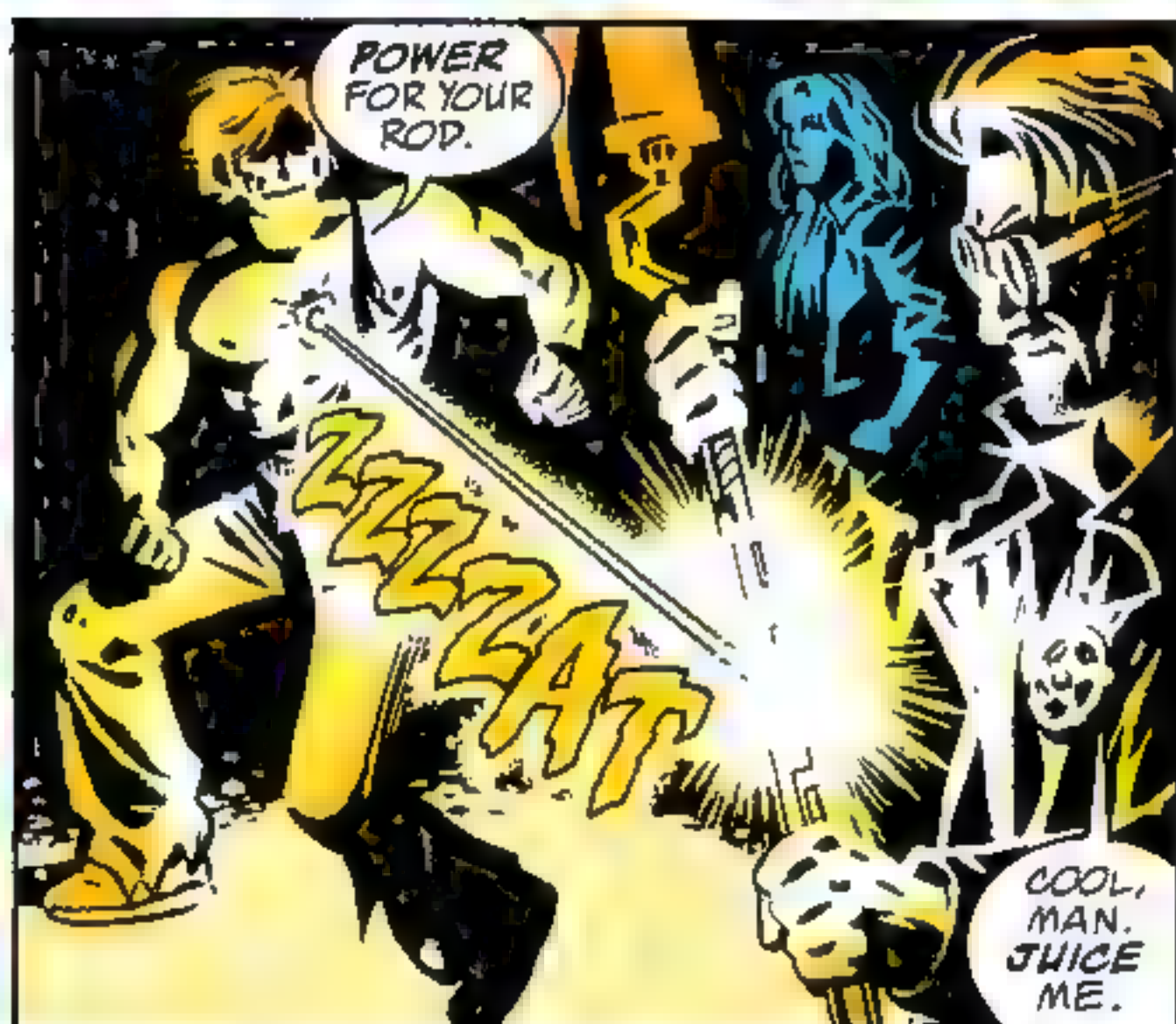


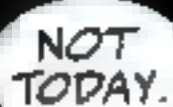
ADAM!













INTERESTING
DEVELOPMENT,
THAT.

"INTERESTING"?
MY GOD, CULD! HOW
WILL THIS EFFECT
OUR GREATER
GOAL?



"OUR," BARRY?
"OUR GREATER
GOAL"?

ERR...
YOUR
GREATER
GOAL.



WHILE THEM BRAVE, 'IGH N' MIGHTY
GOOD'UNS ARE SORTIN' OUT THEIR
NEXT MOVE, WE'LL HAVE
ALREADY MADE OURS.

BRIEF THE
MEN T' BEGIN
THE LOOTIN'.
YOU KNOW THE
TARGETS T' IT.



WHAT WILL
YOU DO?

I'LL BEGIN
THE FINAL
RITE.



WON'T I, ME
OL' MATE?



YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND, SUSAN... THIS IS A BIG DEAL FOR ME.

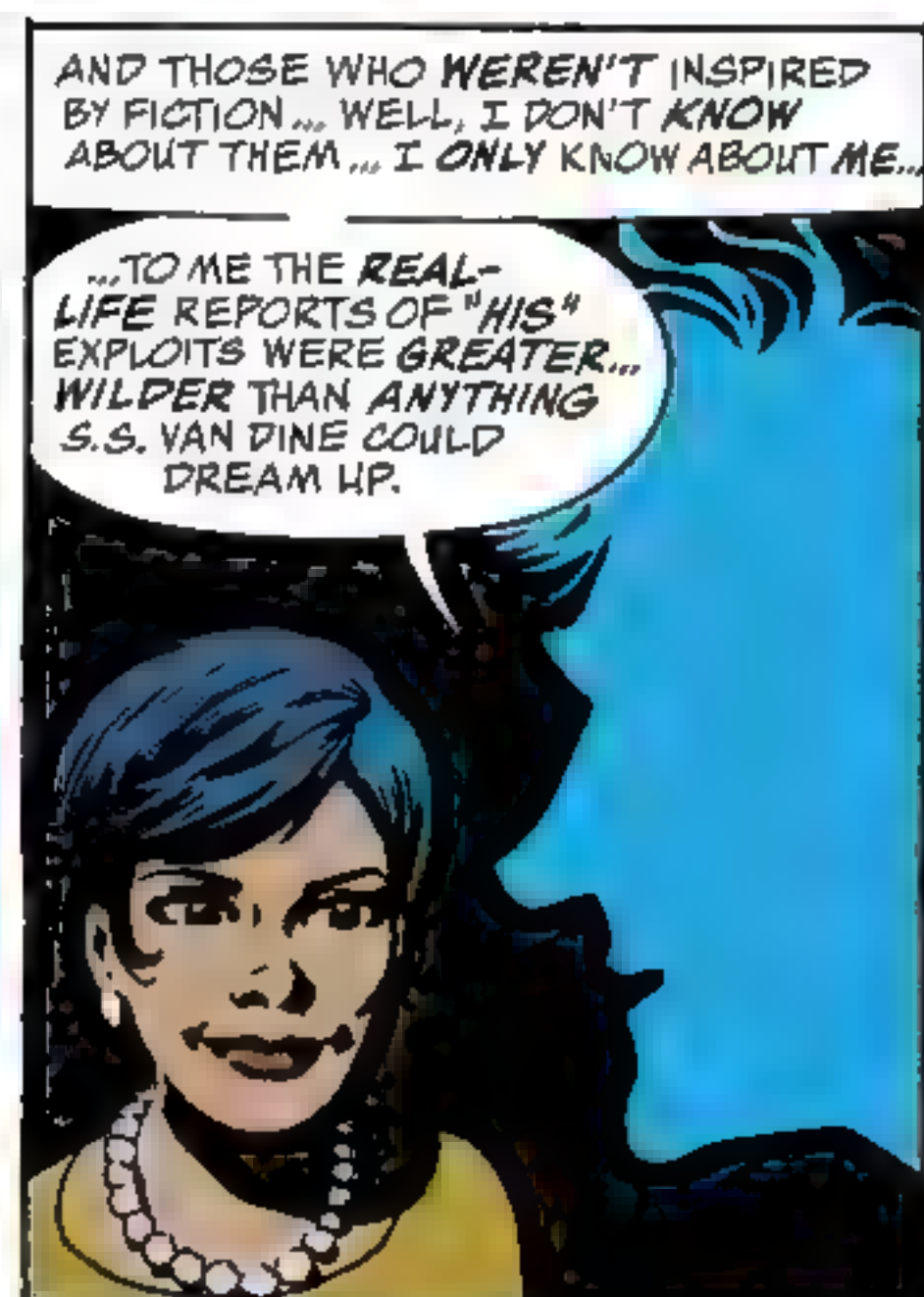
I DO UNDERSTAND, RALPH.



I MEAN, SOME PEOPLE... DETECTIVES... SLEUTHS... WERE INSPIRED TO BEGIN THE WALK DOWN THAT PATH BY FICTION... NERO WOLFE... SAM SPADE...

ELLERY QUEEN.

PHILO VANCE.



...TO ME THE REAL-LIFE REPORTS OF "HIS" EXPLOITS WERE GREATER... WILDER THAN ANYTHING S.S. VAN DINE COULD DREAM UP.



MAYBE KIDS TODAY ARE INSPIRED BY BATMAN.

MAYBE A FEW ARE INSPIRED BY YOU.



THANKS, BABY, BUT I DOUBT THAT VERY MUCH.



ANYWAY, ME, I WAS INSPIRED BY THIS GUY.

LIKE I SAID, BABY, I UNDERSTAND.

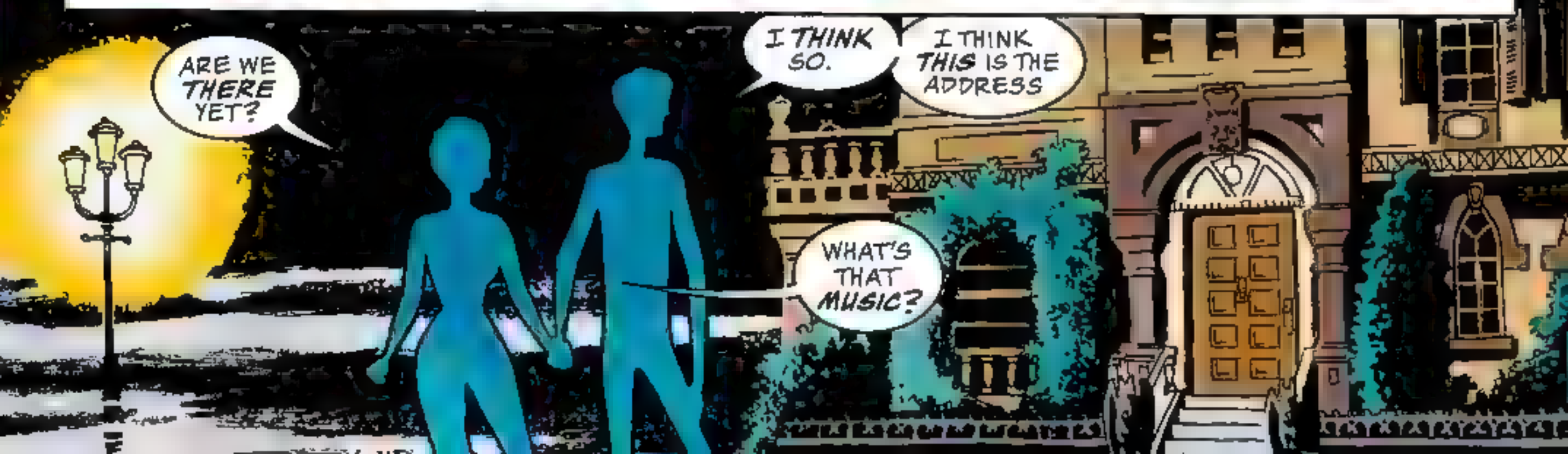
I'M IN SHOCK. AM I TREMBLING?

NO.



I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS... WE DID LIKE I SAID WE WOULD... FOLLOWED THE BLACK PIRATE'S TRAIL... THE INVESTIGATION HE AND SADIE FALK WERE UNDERTAKING REGARDING THE PIRATE'S OWN INNOCENCE OF HIS SON'S MURDER. THEN WE TOOK THAT TRAIL OF INVESTIGATION EVEN FURTHER.

AND IT LEADS TO "HIM."

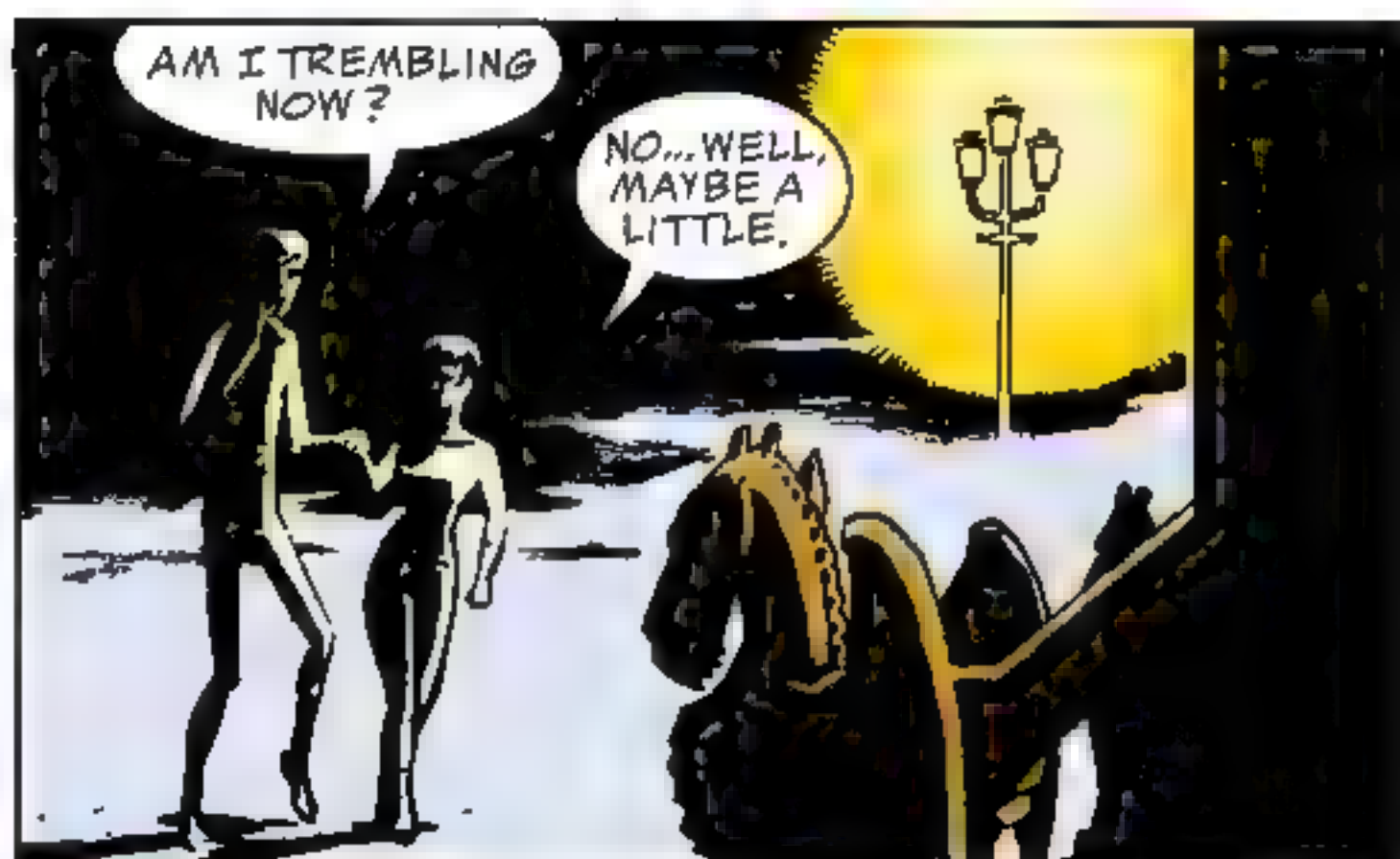


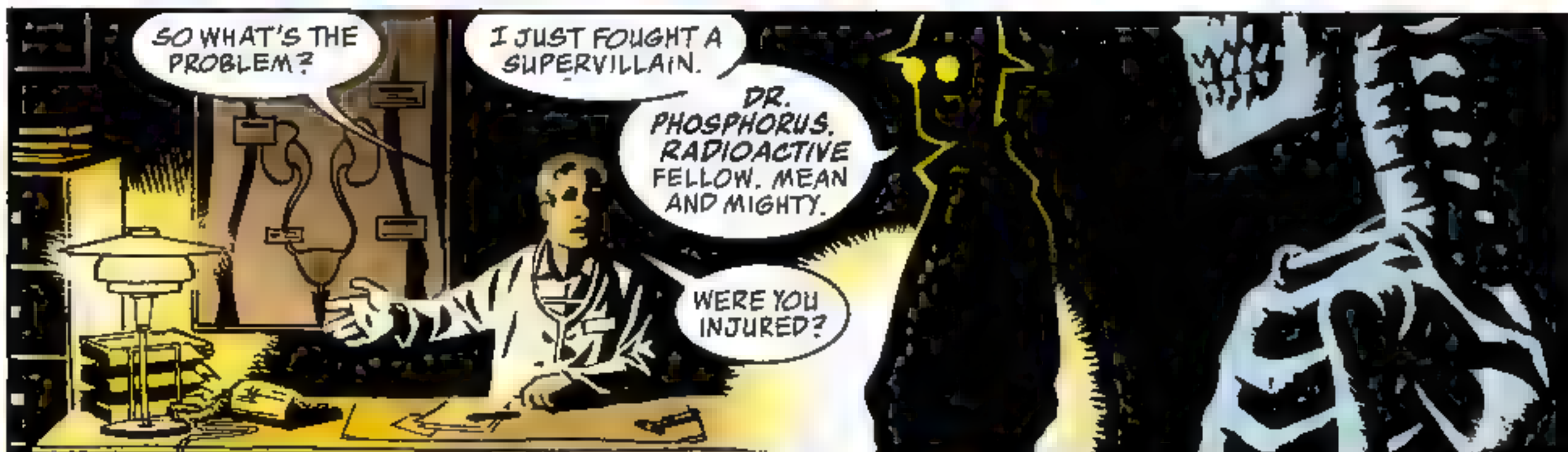
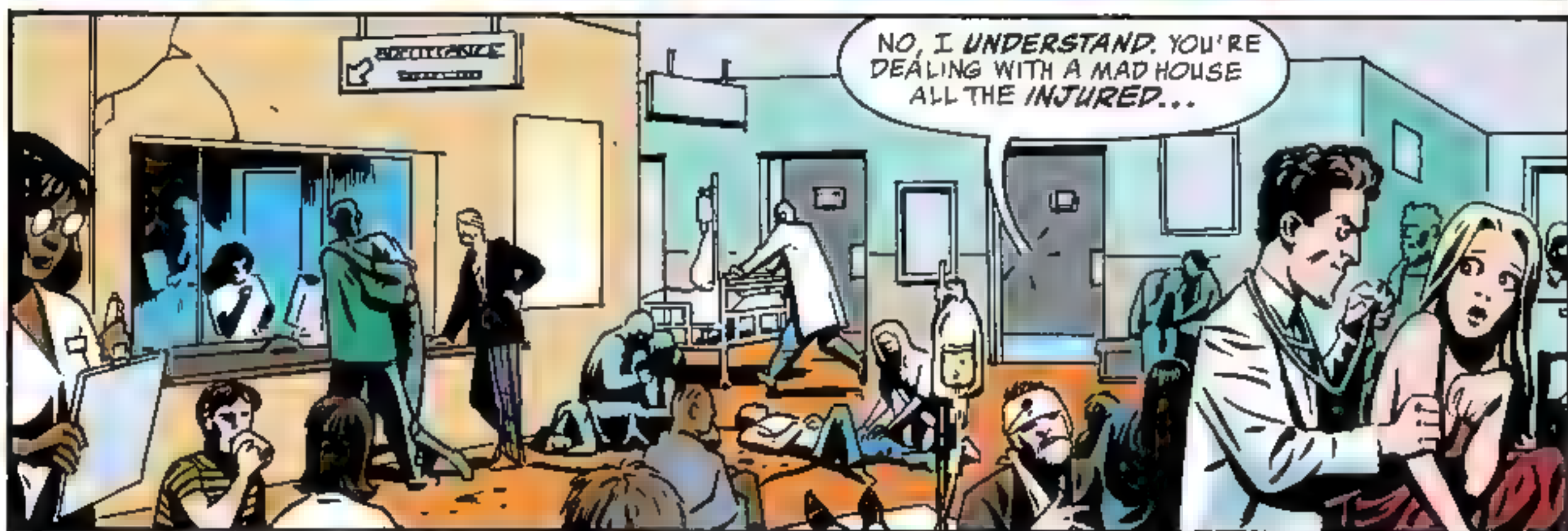
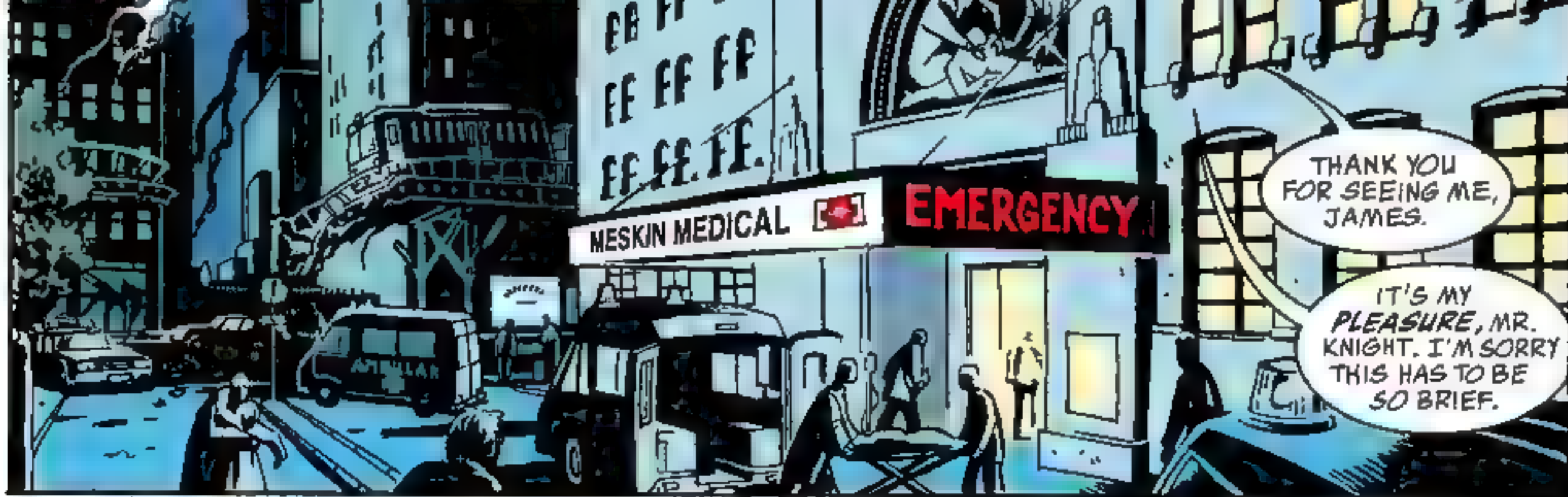
ARE WE THERE YET?

I THINK SO.

I THINK THIS IS THE ADDRESS

WHAT'S THAT MUSIC?





"I THINK *LAST TIME* PHOSPHORUS' POWERS WERE NEWLY *ALTERED*. HE SEEMED *UNSURE* OF THEIR USE.

"*THIS TIME* HE WAS READY."

MY COSMIC ROD...THE POWER OF THE ROD IS HELPING TO DRAIN THE BURNS' INTENSITY. I'M AFRAID TO TURN IT OFF, AS YOU CAN SEE.

I'M AFRAID I'LL NEVER STOP SHAKING, EITHER, FOR THAT MATTER.

WHICH IS WHY I'M HERE...

CLICK

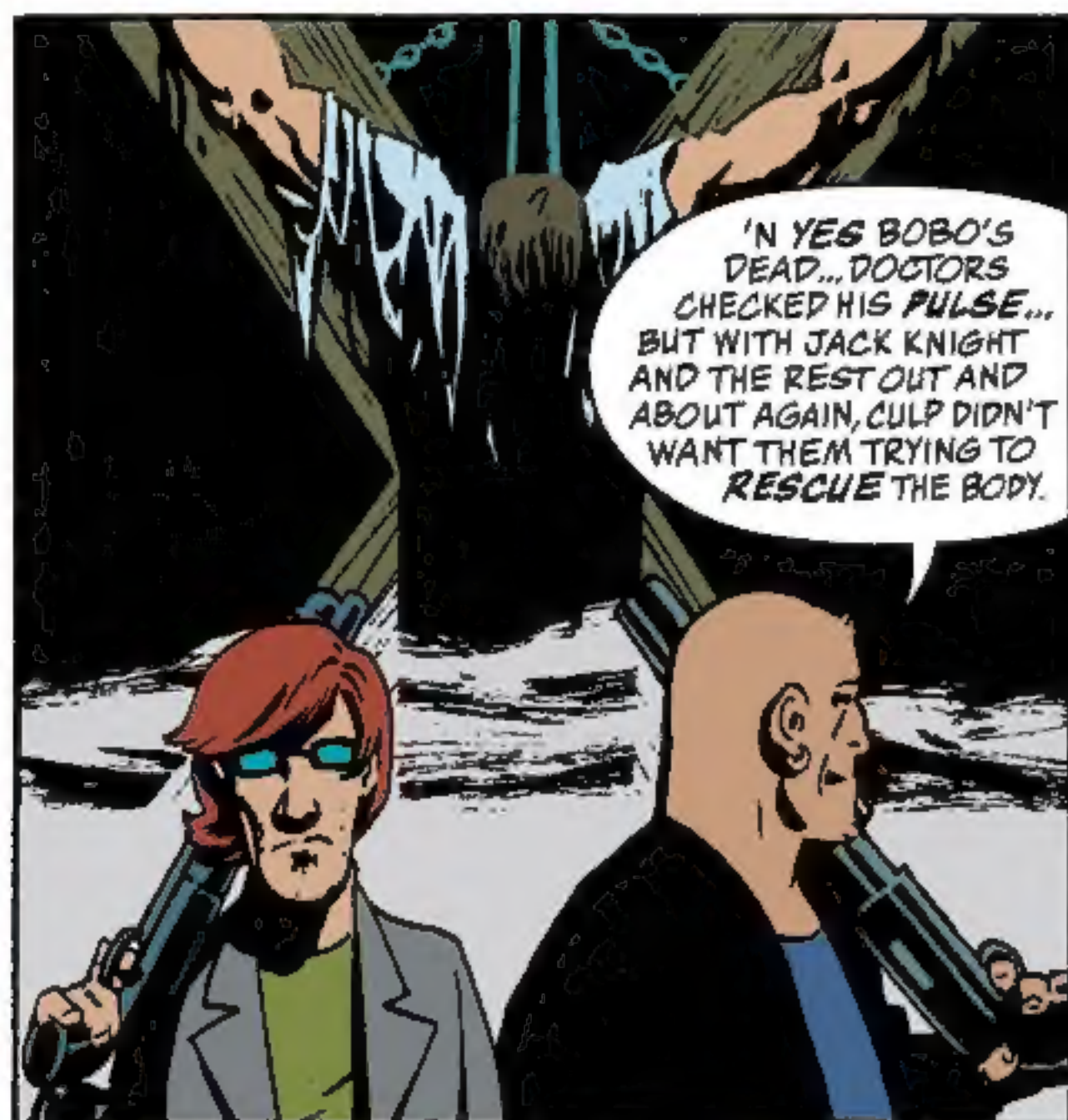
...I'D LIKE TO KNOW THE EXTENT OF MY INJURIES.



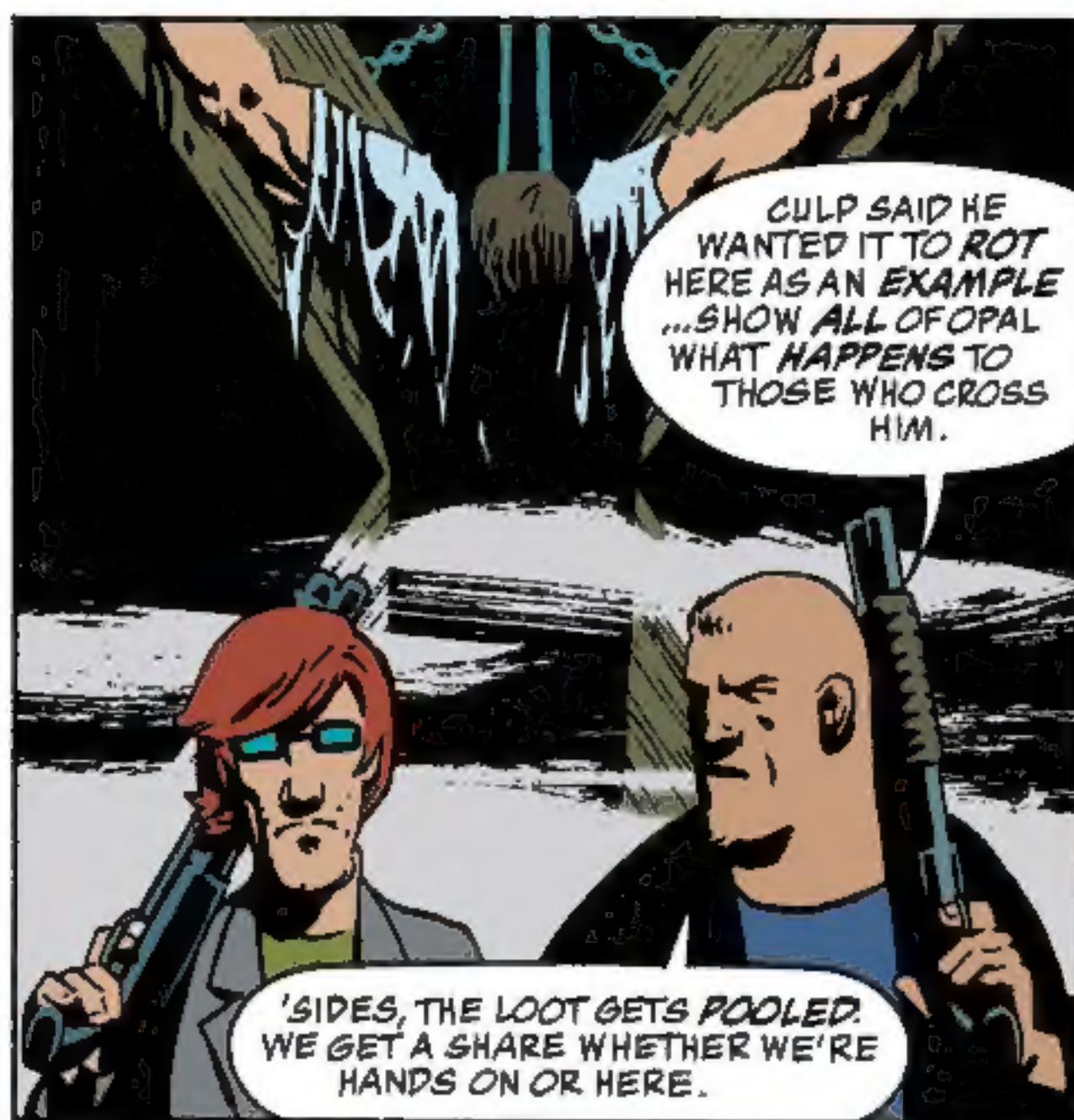
SO WHAT
ARE WE DOING
HERE?

I MEAN,
BOBO'S DEAD.
ISN'T HE? WHY AREN'T
WE OUT LOOTING AND
SCORING SWEET WITH
THE REST OF THEM?

I KNOW
ENOUGH TO
DO AS I'M
TOLD.



'N YES BOBO'S
DEAD... DOCTORS
CHECKED HIS PULSE...
BUT WITH JACK KNIGHT
AND THE REST OUT AND
ABOUT AGAIN, CULP DIDN'T
WANT THEM TRYING TO
RESCUE THE BODY.



CULP SAID HE
WANTED IT TO ROT
HERE AS AN EXAMPLE
...SHOW ALL OF OPAL
WHAT HAPPENS TO
THOSE WHO CROSS
HIM.

'SIDES, THE LOOT GETS POOLED.
WE GET A SHARE WHETHER WE'RE
HANDS ON OR HERE.



I'M
BORED.

HERE,
I GOT MY
WALKMAN.
YOU CAN
BORROW IT.



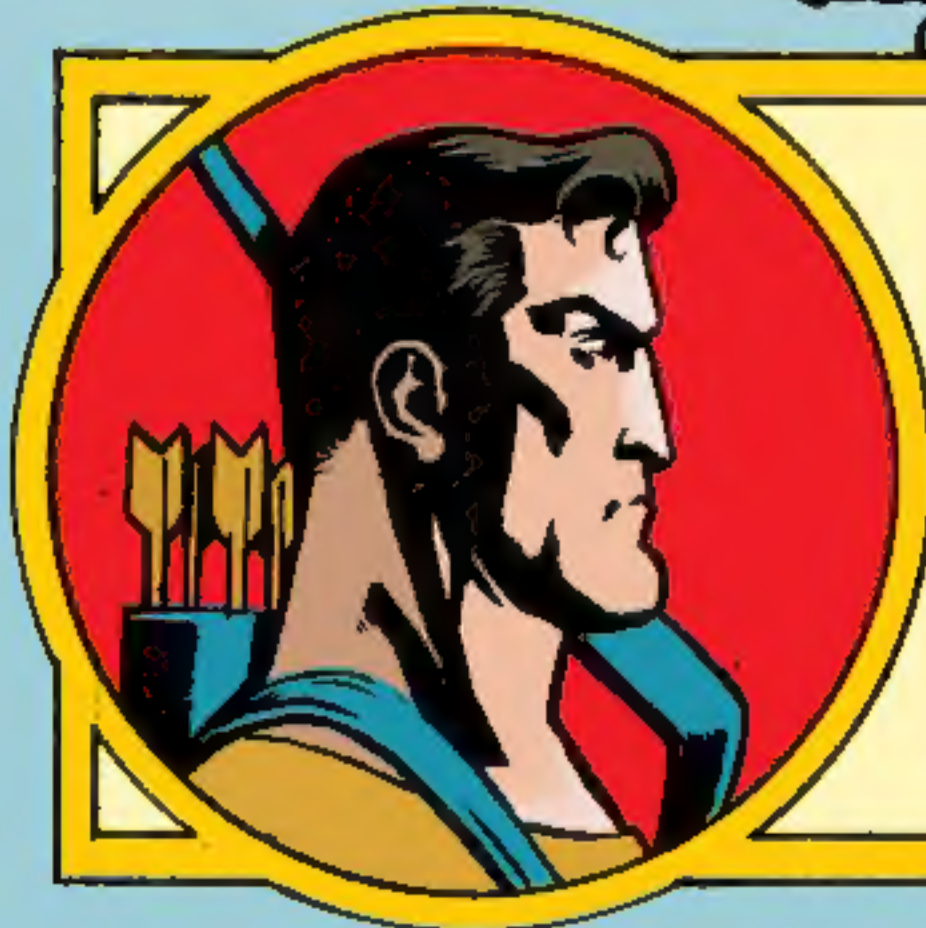
WHAT'S
ON IT?

BOB SEGER
AND THE SILVER
BULLET BAND.

I'M MORE
INTO RAP...
OLD SCHOOL.

OH YEAH, YOU
SURE LOOK IT...





Grand Guignol Septieme Partie

Culp's grand plan is finally
revealed in full detail -
how every step was made
and villain recruited in

**A VILLAIN'S TALE
DEUXIEME PARTIE**



Deadman Wade

"THIS IS WHAT
AWESOME
LOOKS LIKE".

DCP